



# June Edition 2019

## CAMPHILL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

### From our Principal's desk



It is with pleasure that I share the good news that the contractors should be completely finished with the repairs and rebuilding of our destroyed structures by the end of term.

Five months after the fire swept through our School

community on the 11th January, we have not been able to return our learners and boarders to the Camphill School premises due to underground peat fire in the Onrus riverbed producing smoke which at time envelops the bottom section of our property. The smoke together with strong smelling gas consisting of sulphates, carbon dioxide and methane escaping through the honeycomb cracks in the peat is affecting air quality in the area. This could pose a significant risk to the health and wellbeing of our intellectually, and often physically, challenged children. On 29 April a team of 25 Working on Fire members moved into one of our boarding facilities on the school premises from where they have easy access to the location of the underground peat fire to start their work on 1 May.

Please see the excerpt from the Overstrand Municipality's Facebook post below:

- In a joint effort between Overstrand Municipality, Department of Environmental Affairs, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), Working on Fire (WoF), Rob Erasmus - Enviro Wildfires, Landowners, Breede Gouritz Catchment Area (BGSMA) and various other experts across the country, it was agreed upon that a Working on Fire team, consisting of 25 members, will set up base camp at Camphill farm (School) from 1 May, using the unique SPIKE TOOL they developed in Indonesia.
- An area of 800m<sup>2</sup> will receive the main focus.
- A series of 9 holes / m<sup>2</sup> is drilled and the idea is to flood the fire from the bottom up.
- The WoF team will be working 7 days a week and it is anticipated that they will take at least 3 months to fully extinguish the fire.

Read the full article here: <https://www.facebook.com/overstrandmunicipality/?ti=as>

After settling in and receiving training on how to use the "spike tool" the team set about their arduous task with gusto. At a recent progress meeting with all stakeholders, Fire Chief Lester Smith and Angelo Aplon have

committed to bringing extra help for the WoF team, in order to expedite the process.



We are grateful to the management team of the Sandbaai Hall for allowing us to use their premises from late January till end of April for the schooling of our learners.

Our education and therapies are currently taking place in the Bosko Ministries facilities till the end of the term where they have kindly made several rooms as well as the hall available to us. Separating the classes is beneficial to creating a more favourable learning environment, especially for our more challenged learners. This has been a severely unsettling time for our special children who need rhythm and routine to thrive.

The residential learners are still being housed in rented accommodation in Sandbaai and Onrus till next week when the school closes for our June/July holiday. Transport poses a real challenge while we are all scattered about Hermanus. Our staff and children really all want to return to our home at Camphill and we are really hoping that this will become a reality at the start of the third term. The school grounds are empty and quiet without the sound of children's laughter and voices and we miss them terribly.

This is always the sad time of year when we have to bid farewell to our current group of Freunde volunteers. They would usually present a performance to the School and Farm Communities at the end of the second term, but as they are all leaving at the end of July they opted to present it in Mercury Hall when we return after the holiday. They will be sorely missed by all our learners and staff members, but we know that they will be entering a new exciting phase of their lives when they return to Germany. We thank them for all the support and hard work during this past year and wish them well in all their future endeavours.

Thank you to our Hermanus Community, The Association of Camphill Communities UK and Ireland, our Camphill friends here and worldwide and our donors for your enormous support and compassion during these last few months.

Jeanne-Marie Botha  
Principal

# Our clean-up project



## Time to shine with people with disabilities

Casual Day has become a firm favourite on the calendar of many of South Africa's corporations, government departments, schools and organisations. It is an excellent opportunity for corporate team building, whilst also making a contribution to one of the most vulnerable sectors of our society - persons with disabilities.

The project encourages people to dress differently to the usual corporate dress code, whether dressed up or dressed down. The 'license' to be dressed outrageously, is the Casual Day sticker which is obtained for a donation of R10. The project is managed by The National Council for Persons with Physical Disabilities in South Africa. Our organisation participates via the infrastructure of this project to raise funds for the services that we render towards persons with disabilities.

**We cannot change the whole world but we can change the world for the hundreds of persons that benefit from the funds raised by Casual Day. Help us to do this by allowing your staff to "join the party" by dressing differently and wearing the official Casual Day sticker on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019. If you haven't ordered your stickers yet, please contact Geraldine at the school office on (028 )312 4949 or mail [geraldine@camphill-hermanus.org.za](mailto:geraldine@camphill-hermanus.org.za)**

Swipe your MySchool card today



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# Campbell Friends & Donors



It is hard to believe that we are already at the halfway mark of the year with the June/July holidays upon us. It has been another quiet term with our Children being schooled off our premises, yet on the other hand the clean-up after the fire continues, friends and donors continue to bestow gifts upon us and we feel grateful and overwhelmed by the enormous support by our Hermanus Community and further afield. We started the term with great excitement, the 3rd of April saw the Lighthouse2Lighthouse Ladies Walk Awards evening. The 120 ladies raised a whopping R 677 677.92 for our School to purchase another much-needed school

bus. This is the biggest amount that these incredible ladies have raised to date and we were all blown away on the evening and we are still overwhelmed. We are now waiting for the arrival of our new 22-seater school bus and next term, we will have a BIG celebration and handover. We thank each and every walker for their dedication, compassion and for their efforts in raising funds for our School.

Thank you to the following donors who have contributed monetary donations this term:

National Lotteries Board	Hermanus Adventures and Absa Cape Epic	Western Cape Community Chest
Lighthouse2Lighthouse Ladies Walk	Dr Mickey Fauël	Anglo-American Chairmans Fund Trust

We also thank our regular contributors, who month after month, support our School and our learners, in particular:  
(\*New child sponsors)

MySchool	Carin Johnston	Jan and Letanie Nel
Alan Bailey Civil Engineer CC	PJ Myburgh	J van Tonder
* Rob and Margaret Molyneux	JET Lee Will Trust	Freunde der Erziehungskunst

Equally important are the donations-in-kind and sponsorships we received during this period, it is impossible to mention all our generous donors, but we would like to thank the following in particular:

WalkerBay Nursery-Plants and Tress	Peter and Sarah Curtis- Two single beds and mattresses	Nico Louw- Handmade Leather Bag and belt for Fathers Day Raffle
Midas Caledon- Car wash products	Sean and Anja Brandt- Easter Eggs	EnviroServ Waste Management- Stationery Donation
Willie and Georgia Haye- Crafts and Stationery	Hermanus High School-Jerseys	Shark Conservancy- Three Desks
Corlia Malherbe Bloch-Clothing	Hermanus Rotary Club- Story Books	Chanelize Lorist-Clothing



We would like to make special mention of Woolworths Hermanus and Whale Coast Mall, Checkers Hermanus, Peninsula Feeding Scheme and to the Engen convenience store. We cannot sufficiently express our gratitude to them for their continuous support of food donations. We thank the Village News, and Taylum Meyer for the photo's, The Hermanus Times and all social media platforms for continuing to share our stories.

Fundraising Team—Genevieve Linney & Amanja Swart